



OUTSTANDING STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD

*The Frederick County Commission for Women awarded the
Woman of Excellence Leadership Award on May 16, 2011, at the 7th annual
Leadership Alliance Dinner to*

Katie Morgan

of Frederick, MD

Katherine (Katie) Morgan is a rising sophomore Saint Mary's College of Maryland, majoring in Biology (Environmental Science) and minoring in Political Science. As a freshman at SMCM Katie looked into many different groups and clubs on campus and found two in particular that appealed to her desire to give back. The first is the Saint Mary's River Project – Education where at least once each month she goes to the local elementary school to work with the students in their science classes. Katie's passion for science is so profound that, although she does not intend to teach, she loves to share her passion with younger students. This outreach to the community surrounding SMCM has been a profound experience for her. She looks forward to each opportunity to work with the students and share her passion and she that same passion sparked in the young students and their teachers.

The second is The Susan G Komen Race for the Cure. During her freshman year she was merely a participant, this year she joined the committee. The chair of the committee was unable to fulfill her position and Katie was asked to step up and she did. The event exceeded its fundraising goal and Katie is already planning for next year's event. Katie lost her maternal grandmother to Breast Cancer and her Aunt has also had a positive diagnosis. As a biology student she has a keen understanding of the research needs and sees that this is one significant way to give back.

Katie has worked very hard as well on her grades. She has kept a rigorous course schedule maintaining excellent grades. She was named to the Dean's list for the fall 2010 semester. In July 2011, she traveled to Australia for her semester abroad. SMCM requires students to either study abroad or acquire a semester long internship off campus prior to graduation. Katie applied to and was accepted at James Cooke University in Townsville Australia. Her courses while in Australia will be more focused in the Environmental Sciences arena.

Katie is a very compassionate and caring young woman. In December of 2008 she traveled to St Jerome in Petite Rivier, Haiti with her church, St Timothy - Walkersville. The group that travelled was comprised of 4 high school students and 4 adults. During her time in Haiti, which was just 1 week, she worked with people of St Jerome and the surrounding community on 2 major projects.



The first project she worked on in Haiti was teaching the local students about planting seeds and nurturing the seedlings. This was achieved through donations of Sunflower seeds and Maringa Tree seedlings. Over 500 Sunflowers were planted and over 1500 Maringa seedlings were either planted or distributed for planting. The second project was establishing a community vegetable garden with a drip irrigation system. The initial portion of the garden was established planting 10 rows of vegetables common to the local diet. This vegetable garden will provide free vegetables to the local school children for their only meal each day. The drip irrigation system was something new to this community and opened up a whole new way of farming for them. The group was able to provide 3 additional systems that were left with an Agronomist that was assigned to this region. Katie was also immersed in the Haitian culture and found that although Haiti is a 3rd world country they have the same hopes and dreams as she does.

She continues today to share with anyone interested the stories from her trip and what an amazing experience and place Haiti is. Katie had planned to return to Haiti in December of 2010, because of the Cholera outbreak this trip was canceled and will be re-scheduled for the late fall of 2011 when she returns from Australia.

Outstanding Student Leadership Award recipients demonstrate the following qualities and characteristics:

- *Commits to taking on leadership positions that require a significant amount of time, energy, enthusiasm, effort, and thought*
- *Makes a demonstrable impact on improving the quality of the student experience at her school or in her community*
- *Shows a commitment to her school and/or community by responding to a specific need or issue and collaborating with others to meet that need*
 - *Serves as a role model to other students*
 - *Maintains at least a 3.0 GPA*

Students in high school or college are considered for this award.